United Nations A/67/985–S/2013/540

General Assembly
Security Council

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12 September 2013
English
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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 121
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of CELAC on the situation in Syria adopted on 9 September 2013 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of CELAC, would be grateful if the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would circulate the present letter and the CELAC communiqué as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 121.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of CELAC, would be grateful if the communiqué could also be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations
President Pro Tempore of the Community
of Latin American and Caribbean States

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Annex to the letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Communiqué of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on the situation in Syria

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) deeply regrets the loss of life and wishes to expresses its great concern over the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the potential danger it represents to the Middle East region and to international peace and security.

CELAC vigorously condemns the use of chemical weapons and any other weapons of mass destruction, regardless of where or by whom they are used. Its member States reaffirm their full commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

CELAC therefore calls upon all those who have evidence of chemical weapons use in Syria and about those using them to provide that information to the United Nations investigation mechanisms in order to assist with full clarification of the facts and to prevent possible consequences.

It asks the Security Council, based on its authority and on the report of the United Nations investigation mission, to step up its efforts for peace in order to bring an end to the hostilities. CELAC is of the view that if chemical weapons use is verified, those responsible should not go unpunished. CELAC recalls that, under the Charter of the United Nations, only the Security Council can take action.

Reiterating its support for peace and respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law, CELAC demands the immediate cessation of the violence and the protection of the civilian population; urges a stop to the supplying of weapons to Syrian territory; and urges all parties to avoid aggression and attacks against civilians and to establish conditions conducive to a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Syria, a conflict that has cost thousands of innocent lives.

In this context, CELAC calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue his efforts to bring the conflict to an end and reiterates its support for Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and for the convening of an international conference on the situation in Syria.

United Nations A/67/986–S/2013/541

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2013

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 33
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 9 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and to inform you that a special meeting of the Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) was held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 7 September 2013.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, while it considers this the multilateral forum par excellence for addressing the challenges faced by the international community.

In this regard, I have the honour to attach herewith a copy of the special resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Permanent Representative

13-47208 (E) 160913 160913

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Annex to the identical letters dated 9 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement

Special resolution on the situation in Syria

The Political Council of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), at a special meeting held in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 7 September 2013,

Considering:

Its founding principle of promoting the coordination of positions in multilateral forums and in all types of negotiations with countries and blocs in other regions,

The fragile situation of internal conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic,

That the Middle East region is an area where grave threats and conflict persist, especially in Palestine, and where the consequences of recent foreign military interventions are still being felt,

That any direct or indirect intervention by foreign powers in the domestic affairs of the sister nations of the Middle East, and particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic, not only constitutes a flagrant violation of the international principle of self-determination of peoples, but also exacerbates tensions between the conflicting parties, further deepening the conflict,

The belligerent and interventionist statements made by the President of the United States of America and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Barack Obama, about his Government's intention to launch an imminent strike on and military invasion of the Syrian Arab Republic, against the wishes of the majority of the American people,

Resolves:

To reaffirm its commitment to peace and respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as its unconditional support for a political and negotiated solution to the internal conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic;

To condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons and any other weapons of mass destruction, regardless of where they are used and by whom, and to reaffirm the full commitment of its member States to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

To categorically condemn any actual or intended foreign military intervention in Syria;

To call on the international community and opinion leaders from around the world to join forces and work actively to prevent foreign military action on Syrian

soil based on alleged attacks against civilians, as such military action would, paradoxically, lead to a spike in the bloodshed and in the number of civilians killed, wounded or displaced in Syria;

To point out that the declared purposes of the imminent military action against Syria by the Government of the United States of America are based on the same pattern of falsification and political and media manipulation used previously against countries such as Libya, Iraq and Egypt, and that the United States merely seeks to control the oil wealth of the region in order to ensure its own energy security and the expansion of Western markets;

To demand that the Government of the United States of America respect the norms and principles of international law and international humanitarian law by refraining from any military aggression or threat of use of force against the people and the Government of the sister State of the Syrian Arab Republic;

To reaffirm that these same imperial powers which now seek to establish themselves as the world's police have in recent years been supporting groups opposing President Bashar Al-Assad by training terrorist mercenary squads and providing them with state-of-the-art military weapons, with a view to intervening in and gaining control over the country, which has led to a war of conquest, the mig ation of hundreds of thousands of men, women, young people and infants, and the destruction of the Syrian people, the historical bulwarks of civilization and the bastions of stability in the Arab region;

To demand respect for the United Nations and its organs, especially the General Assembly and the Security Council, by the major imperial powers, which requested a transparent investigation into the alleged chemical attack against Syrian civilians that occurred on 21 August 2013 — leading to the establishment of a special commission to investigate and verify the facts and origin of the attack — but are now refusing to wait for the results of that investigation and are once again seeking to bypass the Security Council because they are unable to achieve a consensus in that body, thereby going against the opinion of the global community and the majority of Americans;

To urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations to step up his efforts to bring an end to the conflict, and to reiterate its support for Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, and for the convening of an international conference on the situation in Syria;

To join the global day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria called for by Pope Francis;

To undertake to send planes carrying humanitarian aid to preserve life in the Syrian refugee camps established in Lebanon, as proof of its peoples' solidarity with and love for the Syrian people, particularly women, children and the elderly, who are the main victims of the imperialist aggression.

ALBA will send planes carrying aid that will sustain life, whereas the United States intends to send planes carrying bombs that would cause death and destruction.

Caracas, 7 Septembe: 2013

United Nations S/2013/542

Security Council

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12 September 2013

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July to 12 September 2013

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the past three months, pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended by subsequent resolutions, most recently through resolution 2108 (2013).

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the reporting period, the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic was generally maintained, albeit in a continuously volatile environment attributable to the ongoing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Violations of the ceasefire are set out below. The Syrian Arab Armed Forces continued to deploy personnel and equipment inside the area of separation and carried out military activities and security operations against armed members of the opposition in the UNDOF area of operation, often in response to offensives carried out by members of the armed opposition. Inside the area of separation, the presence of the Syrian armed forces and unauthorized military equipment is in violation of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement between Israeli and Syrian forces.

3. The continuing military activities conducted by any actor in the area of separation continue to have the potential to increase tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries and pose a risk to the local civilian population and United Nations personnel on the ground. As underscored by the Security Council in its resolution 2108 (2013), there should be no military activity by armed opposition groups in the area of separation.

4. In the context of the continuing clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition, there were several reports of firing across the ceasefire line, including by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in what they asserted was retaliation for fire from the Bravo side that had landed on the Alpha side. On 27 June, IDF alleged that a rocket-propelled grenade fired from north of Al Quneitra had landed across the ceasefire line on the Alpha side, approximately 1 to 2 km north-east of United Nations position 22. On 9 July, IDF informed UNDOF that an IDF patrol had been fired upon in the vicinity of United Nations observation

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post 51. An UNDOF investigation found evidence of firing at the specified location. On 14 July, IDF reported to UNDOF the firing of two artillery shots by the Syrian armed forces west of the ceasefire line and east of the technical fence in the vicinity of United Nations outpost 37B. An UNDOF patrol sent to the area could not confirm any impact at the specified location, nor did United Nations personnel report any firing. In the course of the events on 16 July (see paras. 7 and 8), artillery rounds impacted west of the ceasefire line. On 17 and 18 August in the Braika and Bir Ajam area (see para. 10 below), a few rounds of indirect fire impacted across the ceasefire line on the Alpha side. In response, IDF fired two rockets across the ceasefire line on a Syrian armed forces position in Al Harrah in the area of limitation on the Bravo side. All incidents of firing into the area of separation and across the ceasefire line are violations of the Disengagement Agreement.

5. In the late evening of 16 July, IDF reported to UNDOF that two persons had crossed the Alpha line to the north of United Nations position 85 and entered an unmanned IDF outpost. An IDF patrol, which reportedly had been fired upon by the unidentified individuals, was dispatched to the location.

6. Clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition continued throughout the reporting period, in particular in the villages of Jabbata, Trunje, Ufaniyah, Al Horaye, Al Quatanyia, Bir Ajam and Braika in the area of separation. Small arms fire from inside the area of separation and artillery, mortar, main battle tank, machine gun and anti aircraft fire from the area of limitation in close vicinity to the Bravo line occurred on a daily basis. Clashes also continued in the areas of Khan Arnabeh, Al Baath and Al Hamidiyah, principally along the main UNDOF supply road. At times, UNDOF observed the Syrian armed forces reinforcing their positions in the area.

7. In the early morning hours of 16 July, some 40 to 50 armed members of the opposition, approaching from Bir Ajam via Ruwayhinah in the south of the area of separation, launched an attack on a Syrian armed forces position in the vicinity of Al Quatanyia. Syrian armed forces soldiers returned small arms, artillery and mortar fire from a location to the north of United Nations observation post 72 and a second location close to Camp Faouar. In the course of the fighting, United Nations personnel recorded five artillery rounds impacting west of the ceasefire line. The United Nations also observed two IDF Merkava tanks deployed on top of a hill located between Camp Ziouani and United Nations observation post 51, at a distance of some 1.5 km from the camp. Several heavy explosions could be heard in Al Quatanyia during the course of the fighting, at least one of which is assumed to have been caused by an improvised explosive device that hit a Syrian armed forces tank along the main road east of Al Quneitra. One damaged tank was subsequently observed near United Nations position 25 at the eastern boundary of the area of separation from where it was towed out of the area. As the fighting in Al Quatanyia continued, Syrian armed forces also fired in the direction of Jabbata, Trunje and Ufaniyah in the northern part of the area of separation and at Bir Ajam and Braika in the southern part of the area.

8. During the clashes, United Nations personnel observed seven tanks and five armoured personnel carriers enter the area of separation and move into the southern outskirts of Al Quneitra and Al Quatanyia, further to which the UNDOF Force Commander immediately established contact with the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate and urged the tanks and armoured personnel carriers to be withdrawn without delay

because their presence was in violation of the Disengagement Agreement. The Senior Syrian Arab Delegate informed UNDOF that Syrian armed forces personnel and heavy equipment had entered the area of separation to defend Al Quatanyia and prevent a repetition of the events of 6 June 2013 when members of the armed opposition had attacked and taken control of the Bravo gate, killing two Syrian liaison officers and taking another prisoner. He emphasized that there was no intention to enter into conflict with IDF or to escalate the situation. As on previous occasions, UNDOF reiterated that any such actions were in violation of the Disengagement Agreement and needed to stop. The UNDOF Force Commander also met the IDF Division Commander at an IDF observation post in the vicinity of United Nations observation post 51 and observed the continuing clashes in the area of separation. IDF, in turn, reported 10 artillery impacts west of the ceasefire line, including in the vicinity of IDF positions. IDF stated that the presence of tanks in the area of separation would not be tolerated and that it would retaliate should there be further violations of the ceasefire line. The UNDOF Force Commander remained in close contact with both sides throughout the incident, stressing the importance of exercising maximum restraint, in an effort to prevent an escalation of the situation across the ceasefire line and ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

9. After approximately four hours, the fighting around Al Quatanyia ended, while firing by the Syrian armed forces in and into eastern and northern areas of the area of separation continued until around noon. Subsequently, UNDOF observed members of the armed opposition retreating from Al Quatanyia and moving towards the south of the area of separation. By midday, all tanks and armoured personnel carriers had left the area of separation. In the period following those events, UNDOF observed three Syrian armed forces armoured personnel carriers in the vicinity of Al Baath in the area of separation.

10. Throughout the day of 16 July, the main road connecting Camp Faouar and the Alpha gate remained closed as a precautionary measure; in addition, the Alpha gate was closed during the fighting. During the most severe period of the fighting, peacekeepers in Camp Ziouani and Charlie gate personnel temporarily went into shelters. Following small arms fire close to United Nations observation post 51, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization military observers operationally integrated into the Force as Observer Group Golan also took shelter. The following day, upon inspection, UNDOF confirmed damage to the window of the sentry post at United Nations position 68 caused by three 120-mm mortar rounds that fell in close proximity to the position.

11. Major clashes occurred again on the morning of 17 August, when armed members of the opposition attacked Syrian army checkpoints in Ruwayhinah and Braika. The Syrian armed forces counter-attacked and a heavy firefight ensued in Bir Ajam and Braika, lasting into the evening. Clashes resumed with less intensity the following morning. During the clashes, Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition fired a total of 199 artillery rounds, 6 tank rounds, 3 mortar rounds and 25 anti-aircraft rounds, in addition to small arms rounds and nine rocket-propelled grenades, and operated in close proximity to United Nations positions 68 and 69. On 17 August, two rounds of anti-aircraft fire and shrapnel hit the kitchen and the roof of an accommodation block in United Nations position 68. An explosion on 18 August near the gate of United Nations position 68 cut the cables for the perimeter lighting. All United Nations personnel at the two positions took

shelter throughout the fighting; no one was wounded. The UNDOF Force Commander was in close contact with both the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate and IDF. He emphasized to the Senior Syrian Arab Delegate that the actions of the Syrian armed forces were in violation of the Disengagement Agreement and risked an escalation of the security situation in the Golan. The Senior Syrian Arab Delegate again stated that the Syrian Arab Republic had no intention of entering into conflict with IDF or escalating the situation. IDF also reiterated that it had no intention of escalating the conflict either, while warning that it would not tolerate shells landing on its side of the ceasefire line and that it reserved the right to respond, in particular should any shells land in close proximity to and endanger its population. The UNDOF Force Commander urged both sides to exercise maximum restraint, in an effort to prevent an escalation of the situation across the ceasefire line and ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

12. Earlier in the reporting period, on 24 July, a major coordinated offensive, employing artillery shelling, was undertaken by the Syrian armed forces in the southern part of the area of limitation, centring on the villages of Al Magles, Lukarzi and Saida. From United Nations observation posts located in the southern area of the UNDOF area of operation, United Nations personnel observed the Syrian armed forces carrying out a sweeping operation of the three villages. Two tanks were used to block routes while a systematic search was carried out. On 20 June, the Syrian armed forces carried out what appeared to be a planned and coordinated operation using tanks and heavy artillery in the area of Ufaniyah, following an attack on one of their checkpoints there by armed members of the opposition. Personnel at United Nations positions 25, 32 and 37 occupied shelters at various times during the operation.

13. In making its best efforts to maintain the ceasefire and to see that it is scrupulously observed, as prescribed by the Disengagement Agreement, UNDOF reports all breaches of the ceasefire line. UNDOF continued to observe and report instances of transborder movements of unidentified individuals between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic in the northern part of the area of separation. During the reporting period, the number of individuals observed was small and largely comprised women and children, although some armed men also were observed.

14. The Syrian security forces continued to maintain the checkpoints that they established inside the area of separation when they began military operations in the area. In addition, Syrian armed forces personnel maintained checkpoints at the eastern entrances to the area of separation, straddling the Bravo line, to control and restrict traffic. The checkpoints have often interfered with the freedom of movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan. Restrictions on the movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan in the areas of separation and limitation have increased as a result of the clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition. The situation has resulted in the frequent closure of the UNDOF main supply road, thus hampering the movements of UNDOF between Camp Faouar on the Bravo side and Camp Ziouani on the Alpha side. UNDOF frequently resorted to the use of bypass roads, which are not accessible at night. The Senior Syrian Arab Delegate advised UNDOF that, for security reasons, all United Nations personnel should avoid areas where there were clashes and that UNDOF should not carry out night-time patrols. Beginning in early June, Observer Group Golan members encountered an increased number of restrictions of movement on the Alpha side when entering and exiting observation posts 52 and 73, located to the east of the

Israeli technical fence. Following a meeting between UNDOF and IDF, the issue was resolved by mid-August.

15. On occasion, during clashes between the Syrian armed forces and armed members of the opposition, in addition to those reported in the context of the events of 16 July, direct and indirect fire landed in the vicinity of United Nations installations, forcing United Nations personnel to seek shelter. On 24 June, an intense firefight took place between the Syrian armed forces and members of the armed opposition in the vicinity of United Nations position 25, during which UNDOF personnel there took shelter. UNDOF recorded 11 bullet impacts that damaged the sentry box and United Nations property inside. On 4 July, United Nations personnel at observation post 51 sought shelter owing to close impacts as a result of mortar and small arms fire by the Syrian armed forces against armed members of the opposition in the area of Al Quatanyia. On 6 August, during heavy shelling in the vicinity of Jabbata, personnel at United Nations position 37 sought shelter as a precautionary measure. No injuries were sustained by United Nations personnel.

16. During the reporting period, United Nations personnel encountered increased restrictions of movement and increased risk to their safety as a result of the placement of improvised explosive devices alongside roads in the area of separation. A series of exploded devices were located along the main road near Al Hamidiyah in the aftermath of the clashes of 16 July in the vicinity of Al Quatanyia. An UNDOF explosive ordnance disposal team investigated the site and collected fragments, which a Syrian armed forces patrol confiscated. The arrangement of the devices points to a significant skill level in their use. The presence of a roadblock consisting of several layers of stones has been observed since 17 July approximately 500 m south of United Nations position 60. On 23 July, when an UNDOF team was examining the roadblock, shots were fired in the direction of the team from nearby houses. Based on photo analysis, an UNDOF explosive ordnance disposal team was able to identify four anti-tank mines placed among rocks. Since 26 July, a roadblock has been observed on a route south-east of United Nations observation post 72. Two improvised explosive devices were located on both access roads to United Nations observation post 56; one has been observed since 1 August, some 150 m south-south-east of the observation post. The second, consisting of multiple charges placed on both sides of the road, was observed from 11 August on the road 150 m to the east of observation post 56. On 14 August, members of the armed opposition removed four of the charges. UNDOF explosive ordnance disposal personnel removed the remaining 12 the following day.

17. On 20 and 21 July, the movement of two UNDOF convoys was restricted by armed individuals in the vicinity of Mazra'at Bayt Jinn in the area of limitation on the Bravo side. On 20 July, a convoy comprising 11 vehicles conducted the deployment of Nepalese troops to Mount Hermon. Unidentified individuals armed with AK-47 rifles and pistols demanded to check the United Nations vehicles and search luggage and for weapons to be handed over. In the course of the incident, the armed elements readied their weapons and the leader pointed his pistol towards an UNDOF driver, demanding that he hand over the United Nations vehicle. The driver refused. Following a standoff, at the end of which the armed elements quarrelled among one another, the convoy was able to pass. The convoy was stopped once more, briefly, on its return journey, but without further incident. The following morning, the driver noticed two bullet holes in the rear license plate. On 21 July, a convoy of two United Nations armoured vehicles was blocked by unidentified

persons, some of whom were armed. One individual fired three shots, pointing his weapon upward. Another subsequently fired three shots at the rear of one of the vehicles, pointing his weapon towards the ground. The two vehicles swiftly left the location and returned to Camp Faouar. Upon inspection, no damage was found.

18. At the time of writing of the present report, armed members of the opposition had gained ground in the southern part of the UNDOF area of responsibility and enhanced their presence in close proximity to United Nations positions, restricting the freedom of movement of UNDOF and its ability to operate unimpeded. That the areas of Bayt Jinn and Mazra'at Bayt Jinn in the north also have come under the influence of the armed opposition groups affects the ability of UNDOF to sustain its personnel in the Mount Hermon positions.

19. UNDOF has protested against the presence of Syrian armed forces and equipment in the area of separation, the firing into and inside the area of separation and the firing at United Nations personnel and facilities. The Force Commander reiterated to the Syrian authorities the obligation of the armed forces to halt military operations in the area of separation and to cease firing from the area of limitation, stressing the importance of abiding by the terms of the Disengagement Agreement and ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel on the ground. Senior United Nations officials have conveyed similar messages to the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations.

20. Within this challenging operational environment, UNDOF supervised the area of separation by manning static positions to ensure that the military forces of both parties were excluded from it. Since mid-July, UNDOF, through Observer Group Golan, has been establishing temporary observation posts in several locations along the ceasefire line between two and four times per week, so as to increase the Force's situational awareness of the area of separation, in particular in the south where United Nations positions and observation posts have been vacated temporarily owing to the security situation. Through Observer Group Golan, UNDOF continued to carry out fortnightly inspections of equipment and force levels in the area of limitation on the Alpha side. Liaison officers from the Alpha side accompanied Observer Group Golan inspection teams. The deteriorating security situation on the Bravo side also resulted in the temporary suspension, since 5 March, of inspections and mobile operations in the area of limitation. As in the past, the Force faced restrictions on freedom of movement and its inspection teams were denied access to some positions on the Alpha side.

21. UNDOF continued to adapt its operational posture to the continuing IDF training activities and new military construction in the area of limitation on the Alpha side, Syrian civilian developments in proximity to the ceasefire line in the area of separation and increased military activities from the positions of the Syrian armed forces along the Bravo line. IDF continued to enhance the technical fence to prevent crossings from the area of separation. Both sides maintained their defensive positions in the respective areas of limitation. Israeli customs officials continued to operate periodically at the IDF post at the UNDOF crossing gate between the Israeli-occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. On 11 July, UNDOF, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, facilitated the crossing of 23 students through the Alpha and Bravo gates to the Israeli-occupied Golan. On 21 August, 35 students crossed from the Israeli-occupied Golan under the same arrangement. UNDOF continued to provide medical

treatment, including emergency medical treatment, to civilians on a strictly humanitarian basis. During periods of intensive shelling by the Syrian armed forces in late July and early August in the general area encompassing the villages of Saida, Al Magles, Lukarsi and Brudjum, located in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side, local inhabitants fled the villages in a westerly direction, taking shelter in the vicinity of United Nations position 85. At the height of the shelling, up to 300 villagers gathered near the United Nations position during the nights and between 30 and 40 during the days. By mid-August, the presence of internally displaced persons near the position had reduced to around 40 to 50. Apart from treating a civilian for a snakebite on 26 July, no other support has been requested by the internally displaced persons from United Nations personnel at the position. At times, UNDOF saw armed men among the internally displaced persons. On several occasions since the beginning of August, United Nations personnel also observed armed individuals digging out and removing large numbers of landmines from around United Nations position 85. On 24 July, UNDOF personnel at the position observed 15 civilians crossing the ceasefire line by up to 90 m and returning to the Bravo side after some 40 minutes. From 15 to 21 August, internally displaced persons also gathered around United Nations position 80, ranging in number from 100 to 300, depending on the security situation.

23. In the vicinity of the ceasefire line in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Owing to the long-term presence of the mines and the deterioration of their detonation systems, the threat has increased. With enhanced mine clearing and detection capacity, UNDOF continued to carry out operational mine clearance, disposing of a total of 144 anti-tank and 61 anti-personnel mines.

24. The limitations imposed by the security situation on the Bravo side notwithstanding, UNDOF continued its efforts to liaise with local authorities and engage with the local population to explain the Force's mandate and activities. This remained important in the light of the security situation in the UNDOF area of operation and as part of the effort to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel on the ground.

25. As at 19 August, UNDOF comprised 1,168 troops, including 34 women, from Fiji (501), the Philippines (341), India (193), Nepal (130) and Ireland (3). Following the decision by the Government of Austria to withdraw its contingent from UNDOF on short notice, the Government of Fiji agreed to increase its planned contribution of 171 military personnel to replace the Croatian and Japanese contingents to a total of around 500. The Fijian contingent deployed to UNDOF in three groups on 28 June (182 personnel), 27 July (158) and 29 July (161). A Nepalese contingent of 130 personnel arrived on 19 July. The Government of Ireland agreed on 18 July to contribute a 114-strong contingent consisting of a mechanized company, the deployment of which is expected in September. In addition, 85 military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks.

26. Given the evolving security situation in the UNDOF area of operation, the Force continued to adjust temporarily its operations with a view to ensuring its ability to implement its mandate safely and securely. As such, UNDOF has continued to concentrate on static activities in an effort to reduce the exposure of personnel to danger, while focusing on enhancing situational analysis, reporting and

liaising with the parties to prevent the situation from escalating. UNDOF mobile operations on the Bravo side remain temporarily suspended. The operational adjustments have involved a temporary shift in the focus of the activities of a number of Observer Group Golan military observers, from patrolling and inspection to static observation, liaison and situation analysis. As a result of restrictions put in place by certain Member States on the mobility of observers on the Bravo side, the activities of Observer Group Golan have been hampered significantly.

27. Efforts continue to ensure that the Force has the capacity necessary to fulfil its mandate safely and securely. Pursuing the enhancement of the self-defence capabilities of UNDOF and further to Security Council resolution 2108 (2013), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat approached the parties and provided formally to the Syrian authorities a list of weapons considered essential for UNDOF self-defence and requested the Syrian authorities to facilitate the entry of the weapons and equipment, including armoured personnel carriers with higher-calibre and mounted automatic machine guns, enhanced personal weaponry and other protective equipment. In addition, the Force has introduced a capable force reserve company. Lastly, in an effort to maximize troop strength, following the arrival of the Irish contingent, the UNDOF troop strength will reach some 1,250, within the parameters set forth in the Protocol to the Disengagement Agreement. The process of increasing UNDOF capabilities is continuing.

28. In addition, most of the recommendations arising from the military capability study have been implemented. UNDOF continues to adopt and update mitigation measures on the basis of a comprehensive risk assessment carried out by the Force with the support of the Secretariat. The measures include the reinforcement by UNDOF peacekeepers of observation posts manned by Observer Group Golan observers in sensitive locations, regular rehearsals of evacuation operations, the enhancement of the medical facility in Camp Faouar, improved perimeter control of the Force headquarters and provision of personal protective equipment to all military and civilian personnel, including the necessary training. In addition, UNDOF continued to implement the rehabilitation programme to maintain and upgrade its equipment and infrastructure in an effort to maintain its operational and security capacity. Additional armoured vehicles were deployed to UNDOF with a view to enhancing protection. The strengthening of the Force's existing explosive ordnance disposal capacity was identified as necessary to address the increased presence of improvised explosive devices in the area of operation. The security situation has rendered it necessary for UNDOF to continue to use, with the cooperation of relevant authorities, alternative ports of entry and departure for mission personnel.

29. UNDOF continues to improve the security and safety of United Nations personnel and property. Since my previous report (S/2013/345), two additional security officers have joined the UNDOF security section, bringing the staffing to a total of six. The additional personnel focus on shelter, operational and structural enhancements, improving fire safety arrangements, access control in Camp Faouar, tracking of staff and strengthening the Force's analytical capacity. In addition, security training was conducted for United Nations military and civilian personnel and an internal security clearance system was implemented for UNDOF civilian staff. A number of UNDOF national staff work from home because they are unable to report for work regularly owing to the security situation. Those living in Damascus report for work on a rotational basis and the remainder work in the

UNDOF office in Damascus. Only essential international staff work in Camp Faouar; the offices of non-essential staff have been relocated to Camp Ziouani.

30. A fire broke out on 24 June in the supply warehouse in Camp Ziouani, which is used by an UNDOF contractor. UNDOF prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings. Support was provided to UNDOF by four firefighting trucks from IDF and surrounding villages; in addition, a civilian ambulance from the Alpha side was deployed. After several hours, the fire was fully extinguished. While there were no casualties, the warehouse was completely destroyed. An investigation into the circumstances of the fire is under way.

III. Observations

31. I remain deeply concerned about the further deterioration of the security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, its impact on the Syrian population and its potential implications for the stability of the region. The situation has continued to affect the UNDOF area of operation significantly. The ongoing military activities in the area of separation continue to have the potential to heighten tensions between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic and to jeopardize the ceasefire between the two countries.

32. The developments in the UNDOF area of operation in general and the heavy clashes, such as those seen on 16 July in the area of separation, underline the volatility of the situation. I reiterate that all military activities in the area of separation conducted by any actor pose a risk to the long-held ceasefire and the local civilian population, in addition to United Nations personnel on the ground. They undermine the Disengagement Agreement and the efforts of UNDOF to implement its mandate, and will continue to be reported as such. I call upon all parties to the Syrian domestic conflict to cease military actions throughout the country, including in the UNDOF area of operation. There should be no military forces in the area of separation other than those of UNDOF.

33. The presence of the Syrian armed forces and unauthorized military equipment in the area of separation is a grave violation of the Disengagement Agreement. The IDF retaliatory fire across the ceasefire line too is a serious violation of the Agreement. Any Israeli military action inside the Syrian Arab Republic puts the ceasefire at risk. I call upon Israel to exercise maximum restraint to prevent an escalation of the situation. The commitment to the Agreement must be upheld by both parties in order to maintain relative stability in the Golan. I call upon all parties to take all measures necessary to protect civilians and ensure respect for the safety and security of UNDOF personnel, in addition to freedom of movement for the Force throughout its area of operation. For its part, the United Nations will spare no effort in ensuring that the long-held ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic continues to hold.

34. I also remain deeply concerned by the incidents involving United Nations personnel on the ground. The mandate of UNDOF remains an important element in ensuring the stability of the region. It must be recalled that UNDOF was established by the Security Council with the agreement of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, and that its mandate was prescribed by the Disengagement Agreement and the Protocol thereto. UNDOF is mandated to maintain the ceasefire between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, to see that it is scrupulously observed and to supervise the

Agreement and the Protocol thereto with regard to the areas of separation and limitation.

35. Any hostile act against United Nations personnel on the ground, including restricting their movement and threatening their physical safety, the direct and indirect firing at United Nations personnel and facilities by the Syrian armed forces or armed members of the opposition, the theft of United Nations weapons and ammunition, vehicles and other assets, and the looting and destruction of United Nations facilities, are unacceptable. The presence and increased use by armed members of the opposition of improvised explosive devices in the UNDOF area of operation merit particular concern. Such devices put United Nations personnel on the ground at risk and impede the freedom of movement of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan, with some placed so as to directly threaten and isolate some United Nations positions and observation posts. The safety and security of UNDOF personnel and Observer Group Golan military observers, essential for enabling UNDOF to continue to implement its mandate, must be preserved.

36. The primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side rests with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. I again call upon that Government fully to facilitate the efforts of UNDOF to continue implementing its mandate safely and securely. It is imperative that respect for the privileges and immunities of UNDOF and its freedom of movement be ensured. The ability of UNDOF to engage with the local population in its area of operation on its mandate and activities is limited by the prevailing security situation. Armed members of the opposition operating in the UNDOF area of operation must be clearly apprised of the mandate of the Force and must immediately cease any actions that jeopardize the safety and security of United Nations personnel on the ground. I am deeply concerned by recent reports of threatening behaviour by some armed members of the opposition against United Nations personnel on the ground. It remains critical that countries with influence strongly convey to the armed opposition groups in the UNDOF area of operation the need to halt all activities that endanger United Nations peacekeepers on the ground and to accord United Nations personnel the freedom to carry out their mandate safely and securely.

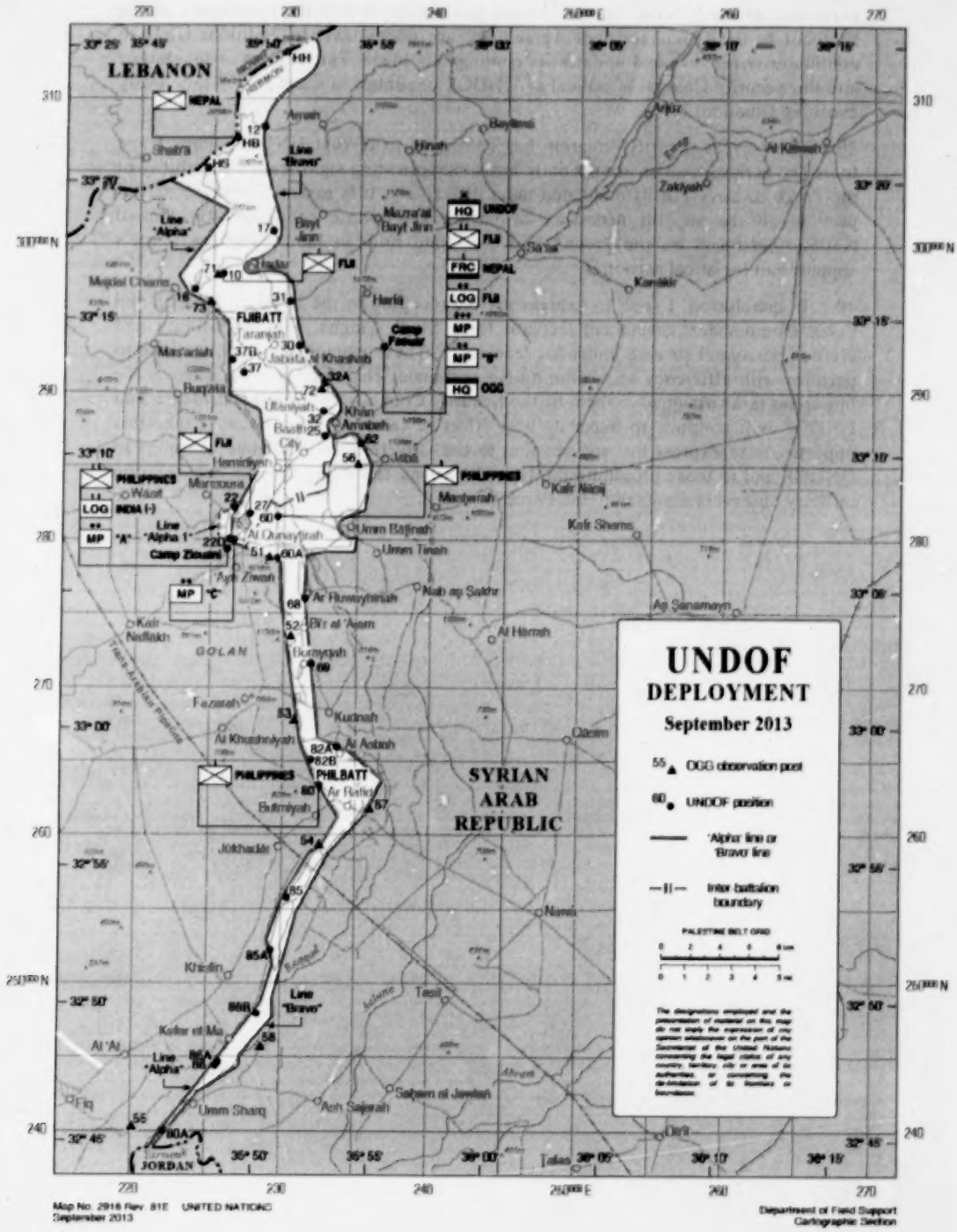
37. It is equally critical that the Security Council continue to bring its influence to bear on the parties concerned to ensure that UNDOF is accorded the ability to operate freely and securely within its area of operation and to carry out its important mandate. It is essential that UNDOF continue to have at its disposal all the means and resources that it needs to carry out its mandate safely and securely. It is vital that UNDOF retain the confidence and commitment of troop-contributing countries. The continued credible presence of UNDOF remains an important element in ensuring stability in the Golan and in the region. I am grateful to the Governments of Fiji, Ireland and Nepal, which have stepped in decisively and on short notice to provide troops to the Force to ensure its continued viability. I am also grateful to the Governments of the Philippines and India for continuing their contributions to UNDOF.

38. Given the evolving security situation in its area of operation, the Force regularly reviews and adjusts as necessary its posture and operations and implements necessary mitigation measures. Steps to enhance the self-defence capabilities of UNDOF, including increasing the Force strength to some 1,250

personnel and improving its self-defence equipment, within the parameters of the Protocol to the Disengagement Agreement, are under way. In addition, UNDOF continuously reviews and updates its contingency plans. The support of the parties and the Security Council is critical as UNDOF continues to adapt to a continuously evolving situation.

39. The current security situation has continued to disrupt UNDOF support and logistical activities on an almost daily basis, complicating significantly the ability of the Force to carry out its mandated tasks effectively. It is essential that the parties provide all the support necessary to ensure appropriate conditions for United Nations personnel on the ground and cooperate fully in facilitating the Force's support and logistical activities.

40. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Head of Mission and Force Commander, Lieutenant General Iqbal Singh Singha, and the military and civilian personnel serving under his leadership. These women and men continue to perform with efficiency and commitment and under challenging circumstances the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I have full confidence that UNDOF will continue to make its best effort to carry out its mission. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF and to those providing the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization military observers assigned to the Force.


LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
GOLAN
UNDOF
DEPLOYMENT
September 2013
55 OGG observation post
60 UNDOF position
'Alpha' line or 'Bravo' line
Inter battalion boundary
NEPAL
FIJI
PHILIPPINES
INDIA (-)
FINBATT
PHILBATT
Camp Ziouani
Camp Faouar
HQ UNDOF
HQ OGG
Line "Alpha"
Line "Bravo"
Map No. 2916 Rev. 81E UNITED NATIONS
September 2013
Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations A/67/988–S/2013/543

General Assembly
Security Council

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12 September 2013

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General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda items 34, 39, 67 and 83

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Letter dated 11 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the letters dated 15 and 30 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia (A/67/964-S/2013/496 and A/67/974-S/2013/519), which have as their annexes the statements made in the name of the unlawful separatist entity referred to by Armenia as the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic".

It has been internationally recognized that the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and seven surrounding districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan are under Armenian military occupation. Armenia used military force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and to establish upon it the subordinate separatist entity. That entity is entirely unrecognized as such; it is under the direction and control of Armenia and is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing. The illegality of the separatist entity and its structures has been repeatedly stated at the international level in the most unambiguous manner.

In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), adopted in response to the illegal use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, the Security Council reaffirmed both the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. It has further stated that Daghlyq Garabagh is part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying

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forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The numerous documents adopted by other international organizations on the conflict are phrased along the same lines.

The European Court of Human Rights has concluded that the above-mentioned separatist entity "is not recognised as a State under international law by any countries or international organisations" and that, "against this background, the invoked laws cannot be considered legally valid" (*Elkhan Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*, European Court of Human Rights, decision of 14 December 2011, application No. 13216/05, para. 102).

As is seen, the irresponsible attempts by Armenia to propagate the unlawful separatist entity evidently contravene the unanimous position of the international community with respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Against this background, the ceaseless efforts of Yerevan to mislead the international community clearly testify to the unwillingness of Armenia to comply with the obligations incumbent upon it under the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, as well as to engage constructively in the ongoing efforts towards a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

There is no doubt that the annexationist claims of Armenia are without foundation and have absolutely no chance of success. The region of Daghlyq-Garabagh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan, and there is no alternative to the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from that region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the exercise by the forcibly displaced population of their inalienable right to return and the establishment of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 39, 67 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2013/544

Security Council

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11 September 2013

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the deputy representative and the alternate representative of Morocco on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 11 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco stating that Mr. Abderrazzak Laasel has been appointed deputy representative and Mr. Mohammed Al Atlassi has been appointed alternate representative of Morocco on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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United Nations S/2013/545

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in regard to a letter sent to the Security Council on 6 September 2013 (A/67/983-S/2013/537). In this letter, the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations falsely accused Israel of violating the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon.

On 25 August 2013, the Lebanese shepherd in question crossed the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov. Following this violation of Israeli sovereignty, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) pursued the individual until he crossed back into Lebanon, at which point IDF turned back so as to not violate Lebanese territory. The shepherd's flock, which remained on the Israeli side of the border, was returned to Lebanon later in the day.

Instead of serving as watch guards, the Lebanese Armed Forces seem to do more watching than guarding, as the border is violated on dozens of occasions by the Lebanese every month. At this time, there are no physical markings to delineate the Israel-Lebanon border in the area in which this incident took place. Both the United Interim Force in Lebanon and IDF have repeatedly urged that the border be marked, to no avail.

Rather than trying to pull the fleece over the eyes of the Security Council, Lebanon should be raising minor complaints in the trilateral forum. Israel regards this as the most effective forum in which to address routine incidents.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations S/2013/546

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to inform the Security Council of 62 incidents in August in which Lebanon breached Israeli sovereignty in violation of Council resolution 1701 (2006).

For years, the Government of Lebanon has repeatedly violated its international obligations in regard to the Blue Line separating Israel and Lebanon. Attached please find a complete list of all Lebanese violations of Israeli sovereignty for August 2013 (see annex).

Members of the international community must act with a common purpose and prevail upon Lebanon to cease violating Israeli sovereignty. I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex to the members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Lebanese violations as reported by the Israel Defense Forces to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

August 2013

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
1.	2/8	0545	3330	One man crossed the Blue Line by 10 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
2.	2/8	0836	3331	Two armed persons were observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
3.	2/8	1449	3332	One man crossed the Blue Line by 10 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
4.	3/8	0532	3333	Two men crossed the Blue Line by 20 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
5.	5/8	0518	3334	Two men crossed the Blue Line by 10 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
6.	5/8	0615	3335	Two armed persons were observed in the vicinity of B59
7.	6/8	0534	3336	One man crossed the Blue Line by 5 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
8.	7/8	1218	3337	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of B72 (1)
9.	7/8	1515	3338	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of B71
10.	7/8	1658	3339	Two men were observed exhibiting unfriendly behaviour towards soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)
11.	8/8	0606	3340	Two men crossed the Blue Line by 25 metres in the vicinity of technical post 16
12.	8/8	0930	3341	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of M4
13.	8/8	1750	3342	Two armed men were observed in the vicinity of B52
14.	9/8	0520	3343	One man crossed the Blue Line by 5 metres in the vicinity of B40
15.	9/8	1743	3344	Four people were observed throwing stones at the technical fence in the vicinity of technical post 37 (1)
16.	10/8	0500	3345	The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) informed IDF that one man crossed the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 16

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
17.	10/8	0803	3346	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man crossed the Blue Line in the vicinity of B64 (1)
18.	10/8	1748	3347	One man was seen aiming a rifle towards IDF soldiers from Lebanese territory in the vicinity of N461
19.	11/8	1330	3348	One armed man was observed in the vicinity of B57
20.	11/8	1922	3349	UNIFIL informed IDF that ten civilians had been observed throwing stones at the technical fence towards an IDF patrol in the vicinity of technical post 37 (1)
21.	12/8	0523	3350	Two men were observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 16
22.	12/8	0553	3351	Five men were observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 16
23.	12/8	1452	3352	Four men were observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Wazzani
24.	13/8	0825	3353	UNIFIL informed IDF that two men had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B64 (1)
25.	13/8	1510	3354	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
26.	13/8	1515	3355	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B64 (1)
27.	14/8	0503	3356	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 16
28.	14/8	0905	3357	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 37
29.	14/8	1609	3358	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
30.	15/8	0843	3359	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of B72
31.	15/8	0845	3360	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 37
32.	16/8	0926	3361	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of technical post 11
33.	17/8	0521	3362	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 16
34.	17/8	1015	3363	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 37

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
35.	17/8	1358	3364	UNIFIL informed IDF that two men had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
36.	17/8	1716	3365	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
37.	17/8	1914	3366	Four men were observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Wazzani
38.	18/8	1636	3367	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
39.	19/8	0810	3368	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
40.	21/8	1142	3369	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
41.	22/8	0753	3370	One armed person was observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
42.	22/8	0802	3371	UNIFIL informed IDF that two armed men had been observed in the vicinity of Ghajjar
43.	22/8	1405	3372	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
44.	23/8	0845	3373	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of technical post 37
45.	23/8	1210	3374	Two men were observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
46.	23/8	1736	3375	UNIFIL informed IDF that two armed men had been observed in the vicinity of AP567 (2)
47.	24/8	1730	3376	Two armed men were observed in the vicinity of B34
48.	24/8	1830	3377	Two armed men were observed in the vicinity of BP13 (1)
49.	25/8	0724	3378	Two armed men were observed in the vicinity of Mount Dov
50.	25/8	0830	3379	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B64
51.	25/8	0830	3380	One man was observed climbing onto a Blue Line barrel in the vicinity of B64
52.	25/8	1515	3381	UNIFIL informed IDF that 10 men had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Wazzani

Serial No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Violation*	*Description*
53.	25/8	1455	3382	UNIFIL informed IDF that two men had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
54.	26/8	0615	3383	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
55.	27/8	0805	3384	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B64
56.	27/8	0827	3385	UNIFIL informed IDF that one man had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B65
57.	27/8	1455	3386	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B66 (2)
58.	27/8	1514	3387	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of B40
59.	28/8	1246	3388	One man was observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
60.	29/8	1230	3389	UNIFIL informed IDF that two men had been observed crossing the Blue Line in the vicinity of Mount Dov
61.	29/8	1621	3390	One armed man was observed in the vicinity of B55 (1)
62.	31/8	0810	3391	One armed man was observed in the vicinity of UNP 4-28

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Security Council

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Eleventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1886 (2009), 1941 (2010), 2005 (2011), 2065 (2012) and 2097 (2013), in which the Council requested me to submit a report on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The report covers the period from 1 March 2013 to 31 August 2013 and provides an update on the planned completion of the mandate of UNIPSIL and the transfer of responsibilities to a United Nations country team, as requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 2097 (2013).

II. Major developments

2. During the reporting period, the Government of Sierra Leone started the review of the 1991 Constitution. On 12 July, it launched its third poverty reduction strategy, known as the "Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018)". The case filed by the main opposition party, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), challenging the results of the presidential elections of November 2012, was dismissed on procedural grounds by the Supreme Court on 14 June. On 8 April 2013, Guinea completed the withdrawal of its forces from the disputed town of Yenga, located in the eastern Kailahun district of Sierra Leone, in accordance with an agreement signed on 27 July 2012 with Sierra Leone, on the demilitarization of the town. Major preparatory steps for the complete drawdown of UNIPSIL by 31 March 2014 were taken during the reporting period.

A. Political developments

3. The overall political situation in the country was calm and stable during the period under review. In a press release dated 9 May 2013, the State House informed that President Ernest Bai Koroma would not run for a third term of office, in accordance with the restriction of presidential tenure to two consecutive terms, as contained in the 1991 Constitution. It also stated that the constitutional review process would not alter the presidential term limits.

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4. On 14 June 2013, the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone dismissed the petition filed by SLPP challenging the results of the presidential election held in November 2012. On the same day, SLPP issued a press release expressing its disappointment that "justice had been sacrificed on the altar of procedural irregularities". The Sierra Leone People's Party however called on its supporters to remain calm while it explored other legitimate options. It should be recalled that on 30 November 2012, the party had requested the Court to nullify the election on the grounds of alleged fraud and irregularities in the process. In its ruling, the Court held, inter alia, that the petition had not been filed within the seven-day period from the date of the announcement of the election results, as stipulated in the related law.

5. The National Electoral Commission conducted parliamentary by-elections on 30 June 2013 for constituencies 29 and 62 in Tonkolili and Bombali districts, following the appointment of the incumbent members of Parliament to ministerial positions. The by-elections were peaceful, despite minor altercations during the campaigning and disagreements within the ruling All People's Congress (APC) on the choice of its candidate for constituency 62. Meanwhile, the results of the parliamentary by-elections of November 2012 for constituencies 5 and 15 in Kenema and Kailahun districts were yet to be announced by the National Electoral Commission, owing to unresolved legal challenges.

6. On 30 July, President Koroma inaugurated the Constitutional Review Committee, to be chaired by Justice Edmund Cowan, the Ombudsperson and former Speaker of Parliament, to oversee the process for the review of the 1991 Constitution. The Committee comprises 80 members drawn from the country's registered political parties, democratic institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission, as well as the National Youth Commission, the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, the National Union of Students, the Sierra Leone Bar Association and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists.

7. During the inauguration ceremony, President Koroma called for an inclusive constitution that would reflect the country's unity in diversity. He further called for the constitution to be "people friendly, easy to understand, and easy to follow". The President stated that the review should capture the country's renewal and dynamism, while drawing on lessons learned from the country's constitutional history. He stressed the importance for the review process to meet best international practices of constitutionalism. He called on the Committee to hold inclusive public consultations throughout the country and to use technological tools to ensure the widest possible participation of Sierra Leoneans in the process. He also indicated that the Constitutional Review Committee would submit its recommendations on the processes prescribed in the constitution to the Government, which would subsequently review and forward them to the Parliament. If approved, they would be submitted to a referendum thereafter.

8. The Committee has begun developing its workplans and is expected to complete the review process within 24 months. At the request of the Government, the United Nations and Sierra Leone's international partners are providing technical and financial support to the review process. The Government is contributing 26 per cent of the total budget of $4.1 million. The rest will be provided by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Fund.

9. On 1 August, the Political Parties Registration Commission, with the support of UNIPSIL and the Peacebuilding Fund, held an interparty dialogue on the constitutional review process in Freetown, with the country's 10 registered political parties. The dialogue was mainly aimed at informing and seeking the views of the political parties on matters that may arise during the review process. The parties raised several issues, including those relating to the establishment of a second parliamentary chamber, the attainment of gender equality and the separation of the offices of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice.

10. During the period under review, the Political Parties Registration Commission held a number of meetings with senior officials from SLPP. They aimed at resolving a dispute created by the decision of the National Executive Committee of SLPP decision to confer the political leadership of the party on retired Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, the party's candidate in the presidential elections of 2012. The police responded on various occasions to incidents of violence involving members of SLPP at the party's headquarters in Freetown. At a meeting with SLPP leadership on 12 August, President Koroma stressed the need to maintain law and order and emphasized that the Government was not interfering in the internal affairs of the party. Meanwhile, the National Delegates' Conference of SLPP was held peacefully in Bo, in the southern region, on 17 and 18 August 2013. The conference elected members of the National Executive Committee and Chief Somano Kapen as the new National Chair. However, a faction of the party, which declined to participate in the election, boycotted the conference. As a result most members of the new committee were elected unopposed. Meanwhile, the ruling APC held its National Delegates' Conference in Freetown from 1 to 4 May 2013 and re-elected President Koroma as its Leader and Chairperson.

B. Security developments

11. The overall security situation in the country remained calm, but there were reports of the detention, on 16 August 2013, of nine personnel of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), for holding an "illegal secret" meeting at a Tekoh military barracks, near the city of Makeni, in the Northern Province. On 21 August, the Ministry of Defence confirmed the arrests, indicating that an investigation was under way.

12. On 30 May, the Government announced personnel changes in the RSLAF with the promotion, among others, of three Brigadier Generals and the retirement of 21 army officers. The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Sierra Leone Police continued to participate in United Nations and African Union peace operations. As at 31 July, 810 RSLAF personnel were deployed to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In addition, 144 police officers were assigned to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and AMISOM. Three senior police officers are providing strategic advice on capacity-building to the Somali National Police.

13. During the reporting period, UNIPSIL continued to provide technical advice, mentoring and support to the Sierra Leone Police to strengthen its institutional

capacities and its command and control mechanisms, as well as accountability and oversight. UNIPSIL also procured software and computers and carried out training for the Sierra Leone Police to enhance asset management within the force. Cooperation between RSLAF and the Sierra Leone Police is also being improved through a review of the Military Assistance to Civilian Power Protocol. Both activities will continue to be funded with donor support.

14. At the request of the Sierra Leone Police, UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team, led by the United Kingdom, provided technical advice to Sierra Leone Police on the use of lethal force as a last resort. UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team also provided technical assistance to the Operational Support Division of the Sierra Leone Police in handling firearms during public disturbances. The authority of local commanders over different units of the police was re-established in order to improve accountability in the use of firearms.

15. UNIPSIL and the International Security Advisory Team assisted the Sierra Leone Police with the establishment of an Integrity Committee, under the aegis of its Complaints, Disciplinary and Internal Investigations Department, to support efforts to combat corruption. The Department conducted operations during the reporting period and apprehended police officers for involvement in corrupt practices. Thirty-nine police officers were relieved of their positions, as a result of their corrupt practices, in the first half of 2013.

16. UNIPSIL continued to provide technical support for the creation of the Independent Police Complaints Committee, which was first recommended in the report of the Shears-Moses Commission of Inquiry. The Committee's membership will include civil society and the Human Rights Commission. Legislation establishing the Committee is expected to be submitted to Parliament in due course. It will be charged, inter alia, with the investigation of cases of unlawful death arising from police actions.

III. Socioeconomic developments and activities of the United Nations country team

17. On 12 July, President Koroma launched Sierra Leone's third poverty reduction strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018). The strategy has eight pillars: (a) economic diversification to promote inclusive growth; (b) managing mineral resources; (c) accelerating progress on the Millennium Development Goals for human development; (d) international competitiveness; (e) employment and labour strategy; (f) social protection; (g) governance and public sector reform; and (h) gender. The President stated that the Agenda was a road map through which the country would attain middle-income and donor status within the next 25 to 50 years. With this initiative, Sierra Leone has fulfilled the "One vision, one plan" focus of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, developed through the forum of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building, for which Sierra Leone is one of seven pilot countries. The country has also completed its fragility assessment and published a poverty profile that indicates a reduction in overall poverty from 66.4 per cent in 2003 to 52.9 per cent in 2011. However, the Human Development Index for 2012, which ranked Sierra Leone at 177 out of 187

countries, shows modest improvements in the country's socioeconomic development.

18. Preliminary estimates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate that Sierra Leone's economy is on track to achieve the projected growth of 13.3 per cent, as output in the mining, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and services sectors continues to expand. The fairly stable macroeconomic performance in the first half of 2013 has sustained this trend. The national year-on-year inflation rate of above 11 per cent has been stable, but declined to 10.86 per cent at the end of May 2013. This is mainly a reflection of the stability of international prices of food and petroleum products, the relative stability of the exchange rate, improved domestic food supply and a tight monetary policy.

19. An IMF mission visited Sierra Leone from 7 to 20 May 2013. Discussions between the delegation and Government officials focused on continued support for investment in infrastructure and human development, reducing the rate of inflation to a single digit, facilitating access to financial services and creating an environment conducive to private sector development and job creation. The delegation and the Government agreed that structural reforms should focus on bolstering revenue mobilization, strengthening public financial management by maintaining prudent borrowing policies, and deepening financial intermediation.

20. Land disputes were recorded in a number of districts during the period under review, partly due to the increasing expansion of the extractive industry and commercial agriculture. In some instances, land-owning families complained that community land was leased to investors without their consent or adequate compensation. Some communities also alleged that mining companies' activities were causing damage to property and negatively affecting the environment. Civil society organizations also raised concerns about the acquisition of arable land by commercial entities. In its Agenda for Prosperity, the Government identified several challenges in land management. It is considering a strategy that includes reforms to land ownership regulations, the participation of local communities in the design and implementation of related processes, as well as the establishment of multisectoral task teams that include civil society representatives to tackle land matters.

21. The United Nations country team is providing assistance to the Government in formulating guidelines on investment in agriculture and bioenergy. It is also rolling out an international instrument on responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, as well as supporting the reform of the national land policy. In addition, it is supporting the Government with the establishment of a centralized geographic information system database for informed decision-making on land issues, environmental management and disaster risk management.

22. As of 30 June 2013, 2,713 Liberian refugees had opted for integration in Sierra Leone. The Government reiterated its commitment to issue residence permits, in accordance with the relevant protocols of the Economic Community of West African States. On 5 July, a one-day training workshop was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the National Commission for Social Action for security sector agencies and other stakeholders in Kambia district. The purpose of the workshop was to increase understanding of Sierra Leone's 2007 national refugee legislation and the principles of international refugee protection.

23. In the reporting period, UNDP continued to carry out capacity-building initiatives in support of the Office of National Security of the Disaster Management Department. In particular, UNDP provided training to the Meteorological Department to improve forecasting and climate modelling services. A United Nations Task Force, under the coordination of UNDP, was established to enhance joint support for disaster prevention and management. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continued to implement its capacity development programme, which includes the training of farmers, facilitating the formation of about 500 farmer business organizations and equipping agribusiness centres to serve as rural commercial service providers and outlets for agricultural produce and inputs. A national early warning system was set up to help the country predict, plan and respond to food and nutrition security threats. Multisectoral disaster response teams have been established at the national and district levels and are progressively becoming operational.

24. UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund continued to support local councils to engage with the private sector in income-generating investments, in the framework of the Local Governance and Economic Development Joint Programme. In the same vein, the Capital Development Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) are supporting local councils to create their development planning systems and procedures and ensure the involvement of women in local public expenditure management and financial management processes, in the context of the joint Gender Equitable Local Development programme. The programme supports women's participation in achieving equal gender balance at all levels of local governance. Specific socioeconomic investments to offer employment, business opportunities and access to basic services with a focus on women and girls are being implemented.

25. The World Health Organization (WHO) provided support to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in conducting key public interventions, including in the planning and implementation of polio prevention in the second quarter of 2013. The campaigns covered 94 per cent of the country. According to humanitarian data, over 15,000 cases of acute diarrhoea had been reported since January 2013. The country also continued to report persisting but decreasing cases of cholera in the second quarter of 2013. In total, 368 cases had been reported for 2013, as of the date of the present report. The Government developed a multisectoral and multi-year cholera preparedness and response plan from 2013 to 2017 with the support of WHO, which also supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to scale up its key surveillance and sanitation activities.

26. During the reporting period, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided technical, logistical and financial assistance to the Government to conduct the second demographic and health survey. The process relating to that survey will be factored into the implementation of the 2014 population and housing census programme.

IV. Advancing peacebuilding

A. Peacebuilding Commission

27. In February 2013, a joint delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission, led by the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Guillermo E. Rishchynski, visited Liberia and Sierra Leone. The delegation discussed the peace consolidation issues that will continue to demand international attention during the post-election phase with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The configuration will also continue to engage with Sierra Leone on the basis of the peacebuilding elements of the Agenda for Prosperity. As mandated by the Security Council, the Commission will closely review its engagement with Sierra Leone in the coming months to scale down its role, and to brief the Council on its findings in a timely manner.

28. The delegation highlighted the regional interconnectedness and commonality of both the challenges and opportunities in Liberia and Sierra Leone, with a view to enhancing cooperation with regional organizations and promoting a regional approach to peacebuilding. Following calls for it to engage at the subregional level, the Commission has expanded its efforts to develop more concrete collaboration with the Mano River Union.

B. Preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

29. At the request of the Security Council, and in line with relevant United Nations policies, the United Nations system in Sierra Leone embarked on the process of preparing a United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which would start from 2015, for up to five years. To date, the United Nations and the Government completed the road map for the framework, undertook a retreat on the five principles of the framework, finalized a report on the country analysis and undertook a second retreat in August to draft the outcomes. The transitional joint vision (2013-2014) continues to provide a framework for United Nations programmes in support of the Government's second and third poverty reduction strategies.

V. Risks to peacebuilding

A. Corruption

30. Corruption remains a major threat to good governance and the building of citizens' confidence in the Government. The Anti-Corruption Commission maintained its three-pronged approach of prevention, education and prosecution. Underscoring the magnitude of the challenge, the Commission continued to engage with various communities on the need to combat corruption and illegal practices. It carried out reviews of ministries, departments and agencies to identify weaknesses and recommend improvements to processes susceptible to corruption.

31. During the reporting period, the Commission filed 26 court cases, mainly against public officials, including police officers and civil servants, as well as

individuals indicted for the misuse of international donor funds. During the reporting period, the Commission commenced the prosecution of several persons for a complex bank fraud involving the Sierra Leone Shipping Authority, the National Revenue Authority and some commercial banks, with an estimated value of over 40 billion leones (approximately $9.3 million).

32. While the Commission reiterated its call for the establishment of a dedicated anti-corruption court, the Sierra Leone judiciary clarified on 4 August that steps were being taken to prosecute cases filed by the Commission. The judiciary also stressed the need for compliance with court procedures. Statistics Sierra Leone, a government agency, criticized the methodology and statistical techniques used by the civil society organization Transparency International in its report of 19 July on the high level of bribery in Sierra Leone. It questioned the validity and reliability of the results, citing, inter alia, the absence of a sample frame and claiming that the sample sizes were not proportionate to the total population of the countries studied.

B. Youth

33. The Agenda for Prosperity outlines a number of interventions for addressing unemployment, which remains a major challenge for Sierra Leone. They include the creation of a national volunteer service corps, the employment of youth in the agricultural sector and improvements to the legal and institutional framework for labour administration. During the period under review, the Government began negotiations with international partners for the establishment of a youth village, valued at $30 million, to prepare youth for employment in the private sector. The United Nations country team continued to support the Government's efforts to address youth unemployment, notably by assisting the implementation of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme by strengthening the coordination mechanisms between the newly established Ministry of Youth Affairs and the National Youth Commission.

34. The United Nations Development Programme is also supporting a business development service to promote entrepreneurs. 1,076 youths (582 young men and 494 young women) were trained on business development and to date, 192 jobs for young men (110) and young women (82) were created in the agricultural and other business sectors. Furthermore, 396 business enterprises, of which 108 are owned by young men and 288 by young women, were expanded through funds received from microfinance operations. In order to encourage legal compliance among entrepreneurs, 108 business enterprises established by youths have been registered with the Government. In addition, more than 2,000 business operators have benefited from business mentorship services.

35. Through its graduate internship programme, which helps students with initial work experience required for a job search, UNDP continued to provide technical and financial support to the National Youth Commission. As a result, 300 graduates will receive training on information technology and interviewing skills. In addition, 56 placement institutions from the private and public sectors, as well as development partners, have been identified to host interns.

36. A programme funded by the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide temporary jobs for 1,500 persons between the ages of 19 and 32 commenced in the western area of Sierra Leone. Participants will also receive daily rations for five

family members, thus increasing the number of beneficiaries to 7,500 persons. The programme has equal male and female representation.

C. Illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime

37. During the reporting period, the cultivation of *cannabis sativa* continued and aversely affected food security efforts. In most cases, it is grown for local consumption and export to neighbouring countries. No significant quantities of cocaine and heroin were seized.

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNIPSIL continued to support the Transnational Organized Crime Unit of the Sierra Leone Police. In March, the Transnational Organized Crime Unit and its Liberian counterparts exchanged information on best practices and strengthened their working relationships. Also in March, a Finnish national wanted for fraud and tax evasion estimated at 30 million euros was arrested by the Unit with technical support from UNIPSIL. On 17 May, building on the recommendations of the West Africa Coast Initiative, UNODC arranged for the training of judges on serious cases related to organized crime and the authentication of drug exhibits. The Unit continues to maintain a personnel of 55 staff members, of whom 53 are stationed in Freetown and 2 at Lungi International Airport.

39. An evaluation team, comprising representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Office for West Africa, UNODC, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) visited Sierra Leone from 9 to 19 April 2013. The team assessed the implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative and the impact of the closure of UNIPSIL, on 31 March 2014, on support provided by UNIPSIL to the Transnational Organized Crime Unit. The team also assessed the coordination mechanism between implementing partners and the Sierra Leone Police and other law enforcement authorities in the country. The team concluded that the partner agencies of the Transnational Organized Crime Unit were satisfied with the West Africa Coast Initiative and its implementation in Sierra Leone.

VI. Human rights and the rule of law

40. During the reporting period, UNIPSIL continued to implement and transfer its mandated responsibilities to the relevant national partners, in accordance with its transition plan. UNIPSIL also pursued the provision of technical advice in a number of areas, as outlined below.

A. National Human Rights Commission

41. From 15 to 18 May, UNIPSIL organized a conference and training on strategies for monitoring human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and for advocacy, in Makeni (Northern Province), in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone. Training programmes on prison reform were also held in May, in Kono and Freetown, for prison and correction officers, with the support of UNIPSIL. The training programme

highlighted the findings of a recent report produced by UNIPSIL and the Government, entitled "Opening minds to rights behind bars". It also provided a skills-building opportunity for staff of the National Human Rights Commission. The Commission will assume responsibility for tasks performed by UNIPSIL, such as organizing and coordinating district human rights committees and co-chairing the Human Rights Working Group, the justice and human rights forums and the human rights media programme.

B. International treaty reporting

42. In June 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation submitted Sierra Leone's initial report on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, with the assistance of UNIPSIL. UNIPSIL also continued to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs on the preparation of Sierra Leone's country report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

C. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights

43. In April 2013, UNIPSIL organized a capacity-building programme for the project in support of Pride Equality, a local non-governmental organization, on monitoring and documenting violations of the human rights of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and conducting advocacy for that community in Sierra Leone. The training outlined strategies for advocacy and for funding support to the organization, which will continue to carry out the campaign to uphold the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the country. A total of 50 local activists for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community participated in the training, which underscored the protection and promotion of persons with a different sexual and gender identity as a fundamental human right.

D. Juveniles and children in conflict

44. In April 2013, UNIPSIL, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Sierra Leone Police produced standard operating procedures relating to the treatment of juveniles and children in conflict with the law and the role of the police in combating violence against women and children, which remains a serious challenge.

E. Persons with disabilities

45. UNIPSIL provided technical support to the National Commission for Persons with Disability for the organization of a strategic planning workshop in Freetown, held on 30 May. UNIPSIL also formulated key interventions for the strategic plan of the Commission in the areas of employment and income, education, health care and reproductive health, livelihood, access to social services and social inclusion, integration and participation.

F. Visit of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

46. UNIPSIL provided support for the visit to Sierra Leone of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, from 30 June to 5 July. The Special Rapporteur met with the Vice-President and senior Government officials, as well as with interfaith groups and civil society organizations. He highlighted the positive level of religious tolerance in the country. His report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2014.

G. Rule of law

47. UNDP continued to carry out several rule of law activities in support of the peace consolidation process, including for enhancing access to justice. In April and August 2013, UNDP and its national implementing partner, Timap for Justice, provided extensive training to civil society organizations' court monitors, from over 80 organizations, on newly developed court monitoring tools and paralegal skills.

H. Gender issues

48. The United Nations provided technical and financial support to Government counterparts for the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March. During the ceremony, President Koroma reiterated his Government's commitment to gender equality, citing the appointment of women to several public positions, a proposal to establish a National Commission for Women, and the inclusion of a gender pillar in the Government's Agenda for Prosperity. The President also noted the need for gender equality legislation. At the ceremony, a position paper was presented by a coalition of women's organizations to the Government and the international community on four major themes: (a) women and governance; (b) women and energy; (c) women and enterprise development; and (d) women and health.

49. On 4 and 5 April, UN-Women organized a two-day training workshop for women parliamentarians in Makeni, with the support of the United Nations Gender Theme Group. The training was aimed at enhancing the ability of women parliamentarians to assess parliamentary bills and interact with their constituents, as well as to reinforce their positions as role models.

50. UNDP supported the Sierra Leone Police in finalizing the standard operating procedures and case management guidelines for dealing with sexual offences handled by the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police. A roll-out of the training of trainers in this area commenced on 29 July, for 25 police officers, and additional training sessions are envisaged in September 2013.

51. In July, President Koroma launched the Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy as part of activities to commemorate World Population Day. The strategy was developed with technical support from UNFPA, also working in partnership with the Population Council to develop an Adolescent Girls Initiative programme in support of the Government's efforts to deal with teenage issues. At the same time, UNFPA began discussions with WFP on the provision of nutritional products to teenage mothers through the Adolescent Girls Initiative.

VII. Regional cooperation

52. On 3 June, the Government of Sierra Leone announced that Yenga, a town in the eastern region of Sierra Leone occupied by Guinean Armed Forces since 1999, had been demilitarized in accordance with an agreement of 27 July 2012 between the Governments of Guinea and Sierra Leone. The Government added that Guinean Armed Forces had effectively withdrawn their personnel and equipment from the area. Military patrols have been reactivated by the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces and the Guinean Armed Forces on their respective sides of the border.

53. During the reporting period, eight meetings of the joint border security and confidence-building units were held by the Mano River Union, with financial assistance from the Peacebuilding Fund and technical support from UNIPSIL. The meetings strengthened interaction between border communities in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, and helped enhance the fight against illicit drug trafficking and arms proliferation. The Mano River Union also organized five capacity-building workshops for security sector agencies from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

VIII. United Nations transition arrangements

A. Programme responsibilities

54. UNIPSIL continued to make detailed arrangements for the transfer of its programme responsibilities to the United Nations country team and other relevant stakeholders. Support to the media, including the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Media Commission, and to the extractive industry, as well as capacity-building programmes and engagement with civil society will be carried out by the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team will also develop a comprehensive communications strategy that covers the United Nations transition and beyond. Three programme documents have been formulated to provide a strong basis for continued support to the Government during and after the transfer of responsibilities from the United Nations political mission to the United Nations country team, in accordance with the mandate areas identified in resolution 2097 (2013).

1. Constitutional review process

55. Further to the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, a joint mission of the Department of Political Affairs and UNDP visited Sierra Leone from 22 to 26 April 2013. The joint mission held discussions with the Government and relevant stakeholders on the scope of United Nations assistance to the constitutional review process. The United Nations and the Government subsequently signed a comprehensive project document on 18 July. The total cost of the project will be $4.2 million, of which the Government will contribute about 26 per cent. The European Union and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom have committed to fill the financial gap. The project, which will be managed by UNDP, aims to ensure a transparent and fully inclusive process leading to a constitution that would be fully acceptable to the people of Sierra Leone. It will also contribute to enhance the capacity of the Constitutional Review Committee to undertake the process and to, inter alia, make available legal and research services.

A strong communications and outreach strategy is envisaged for the process, as well as a civil society-led civic education campaign. In the same vein, until its closure, UNIPSIL will continue to facilitate political dialogue for the constitutional review process, including by supporting the participation of non-State actors, in particular political parties, women and youth groups, as well as traditional and religious leaders, through a programme to be financed by the Peacebuilding Fund.

2. Security sector reform programme

56. A joint UNDP/Department of Peacekeeping Operations assessment team visited Sierra Leone from 23 March to 10 May 2013, as part of a programme formulation mission in support of the Sierra Leone security sector, in consultation with relevant national and international stakeholders, as part of UNIPSIL transition planning, and as a specific recommendation of the United Nations technical assessment mission of January 2013. UNIPSIL, UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations subsequently finalized a programme document focusing on United Nations support to the security sector for the subsequent two years. The programme aims at enhancing coordination among line ministries, departments and agencies, as well as reviewing the legislative framework for the Police towards enhancing the modernization of the force. The envisaged outputs include (a) improved professionalism for more effective service delivery; (b) stronger community policing mechanisms that are responsive to public needs; (c) greater security sector governance, oversight and coordination; and (d) improved border security for enhanced public safety.

57. The programme embraces the principle that security is fundamental to development, providing for a smooth transfer of UNIPSIL police and security-related activities to UNDP, UNODC and relevant United Nations agencies on the ground to avoid substantive gaps during the transition. Meanwhile, UNIPSIL continued to work in close collaboration with national and international partners and other United Nations agencies on the transition process in the security sector. The next steps in this regard would include the finalization of funding commitments for the programme.

3. Conflict prevention programme

58. A conflict prevention programme that will build on UNIPSIL efforts to strengthen local mediation mechanisms and promote dialogue and assistance will be finalized shortly. The beneficiaries will include critical national institutions, including the Political Parties Registration Commission, the National Commission for Democracy and the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, as well as cross-party political associations. The programme will compiement the constitutional review process and include provisions for the establishment of early warning mechanisms in all 149 chiefdoms of Sierra Leone, as well as support to national efforts for the promotion of political inclusion. The programme will also aim at harnessing the positive contributions of traditional authorities and adherence to relevant codes of conduct. The programme prioritizes women's groups, in order for them to become major stakeholders in conflict prevention and resolution.

59. Funding arrangements for the programme are under discussion with relevant potential donors and partners. Oversight of the programme will be a key

responsibility of a peace and development adviser, who will support the United Nations resident coordinator following the closure of UNIPSIL.

4. Human rights and the rule of law

60. As noted earlier, the National Human Rights Commission has progressively assumed a significant number of the functions performed by the Human Rights Section of UNIPSIL. The section will close in December 2013, and a human rights adviser to the resident coordinator is expected to be deployed by early 2014. The human rights adviser will also foster continued cooperation between the Commission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UNDP will continue to provide support to the Commission in the area of rule of law.

5. Transition steering group

61. As requested by the Security Council, and following consultations between the Government of Sierra Leone, international partners and the United Nations country team, mapping of the international community's support to Sierra Leone, in particular regarding the transfer of residual functions currently provided by UNIPSIL, is being completed. The map spells out the current mandated responsibilities of UNIPSIL and matches them with potential successor entities which would assume the residual responsibilities.

B. Administrative arrangements

1. Staffing issues

62. During the reporting period, the process of drawing down UNIPSIL was carefully calibrated to allow for the execution of outstanding mandate responsibilities. The aviation unit closed on 31 March, followed by the Democratic Institutions Section on 30 June 2013. The Human Rights section will close on 31 December 2013, while the Office of my Executive Representative, the Political Affairs and Peace Consolidation Section and the Police and Security Unit will remain operational until 31 March 2014, with appropriate and progressive staff reductions. The Mission Support Section will close on 31 May 2014.

63. As of 1 July 2013, the total staff strength of UNIPSIL was 68, consisting of 32 international staff members, 28 national staff members and 8 United Nations Volunteers. Downsizing will continue until 31 December 2013.

2. Liquidation plan

64. UNIPSIL has developed a plan, in collaboration with the Department of Field Support, for the liquidation of all UNIPSIL assets, movable and immovable, in accordance with relevant United Nations policies and procedures. In addition, through a preliminary asset disposal plan, United Nations-owned equipment will be shipped to other missions, made available to United Nations agencies, disposed of through commercial sale to the public, or donated to the Government, as appropriate. These tasks will be completed no later than 30 May 2014.

IX. Observations

65. I commend the people and the Government of Sierra Leone for the significant progress that has been made since the end of the civil war in consolidating peace, and especially during the period under review. With the continued strengthening of democratic institutions and the expansion of infrastructure, the country is firmly establishing a path towards sustainable stability and socioeconomic development.

66. I am encouraged by Sierra Leone's positive economic outlook and its prospects for continued growth. However, I am concerned by the increasing number of land disputes between commercial entities and local communities. If not properly addressed, they could create further communal tensions with broader economic and public order ramifications. I therefore welcome proposals under consideration by the Government and other partners to address this issue. The United Nations is ready to assist the Government in such efforts.

67. I am encouraged by progress made in advancing the constitutional review process with the establishment of a Constitutional Review Committee and I commend President Koroma for his leadership in this regard. The review is vital to consolidating peace. The composition of the Constitutional Review Committee, with very broad representation, is a starting point in ensuring that the voices of all Sierra Leoneans are heard and taken into account in this important endeavour. I call on Sierra Leone's political parties and other stakeholders to put national interests above all other considerations during the review process, which represents an opportunity to revisit and enhance the role of Sierra Leone's democratic institutions, promote the rule of law, justice and good governance and ensure the country's socioeconomic progress and durable peace. I urge Sierra Leone's international partners to continue to provide the necessary technical and financial support to this process.

68. I also welcome President Koroma's zero-tolerance commitment against corruption, as well as the country's efforts to combat this threat. Fighting corruption is a foundation of good governance and is vital for building citizens' confidence in government institutions. I further call upon the Anti-Corruption Commission to continue its campaign and urge its partners to provide strong support to the Commission.

69. I note the increasing tensions and intra-party disputes facing some of Sierra Leone's political parties, and I urge the leadership of those parties to peacefully resolve their differences through dialogue in the interest of their own parties and for the sake of multiparty democracy in the country. I call on Sierra Leone's youth and women's associations to continue to serve as platforms for building national cohesion.

70. The transfer of relevant responsibilities of UNIPSIL to the United Nations country team and to national and international partners is in line with the country's progress. The transfer is proceeding in accordance with the transition plan. Arrangements for the complete drawdown of UNIPSIL are on track, with the objective of ensuring that no gaps are created by its exit on 31 March 2014.

71. At the same time, the continued assistance of Sierra Leone's international partners is necessary to complement national efforts in overcoming the remaining challenges to improve living standards, access to health care and other social services, as well as to reduce unemployment. In that regard, I urge development

partners to fill the funding gaps identified by UNIPSIL for the implementation of Sierra Leone's third poverty reduction strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018). Further support to the United Nations country team through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process is also critical.

72. As the Peacebuilding Commission reviews its engagement with Sierra Leone to scale down its future role, it is pertinent that, during the process, it continues to play an important complementary role in support of the Government and its Agenda for Prosperity, in close coordination with the United Nations transition process. I continue to encourage the Peacebuilding Commission to help sustain international support for Sierra Leone and to engage in resource mobilization efforts to address part of the shortfall on a cost-sharing basis, including through the Peacebuilding Fund.

73. In conclusion, I wish to thank President Koroma and his Government for their continued cooperation with the United Nations. I am also grateful to the development partners of Sierra Leone for their critical assistance to the country's peacebuilding process. Finally, I thank my Executive Representative, Mr. Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen, and the staff of UNIPSIL, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other international and regional partners, for their work and dedication to the implementation of the mandate of UNIPSIL.

United Nations A/67/989–S/2013/548

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of an incident that occurred at around 1400 hours on 29 August 2013 in the locality of Jabal Shahl, on the outskirts of Shab'a town inside Lebanese territory. An Israeli enemy patrol attempted to abduct the Lebanese citizen Ali Qasim Zahra, who was grazing his flock. He succeeded in escaping along with the flock.

My Government considers this action to be a blatant violation of my country's sovereignty, and it must be condemned on the basis of the principles and provisions of international law and international norms.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-47396 (E) 130913 160913

Please recycle

United Nations S/2013/549

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2013
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I write with reference to the claims made in the letter dated 28 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the President of the Security Council (S/2013/514) regarding the monthly Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, which was held on 20 August 2013. I should like to draw attention to the following information.

Firstly, it is well known that the item "The situation in the Middle East" has historically addressed ways to enforce United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions, concerning ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan, in line with the borders of 4 June 1967, in addition to bringing an end to Israel's violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law and other international instruments, with a view to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with the recognized terms of reference for peace. The contents of the Israeli letter are a desperate attempt on the part of the Permanent Representative of Israel to deflect the Council's deliberations from the core of the item, to cover up Israel's crimes against Arab civilians under occupation, and to obscure Israel's refusal to implement hundreds of United Nations resolutions on the subject. It is preposterous that the Israeli occupation authorities should hold forth on human rights crises in other States and the use of internationally prohibited weapons, particularly in the light of Israel's own atrocities, most recently in Gaza a few years ago. Israel has used white phosphorus against Palestinians and displaced them. It has displaced Syrians from the occupied Syrian Golan, and its inhumane practices against that population have been documented by the relevant United Nations committees.

Secondly, Israel is directly involved in the events in Syria. The Israeli occupation authorities are assisting and supporting terrorist groups in the area of separation in the Golan. They have transported wounded terrorists over the line of separation to Israeli hospitals, where they received treatment before being returned to Syrian territory, again over the line of separation, in order to resume their terrorist activities in the region. Not only does Israel's assistance of the terrorists blatantly violate the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement, the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and international law; it also hinders the work of United Nations forces stationed in the area and places their lives at risk. Indeed, the terrorist groups have abducted UNDOF peacekeepers on several occasions.

Please recycle

Thirdly, and lastly, we emphasize that the forthcoming monthly briefing of the Secretariat on the situation in the Middle East should focus on the occupied Syrian Golan. Israel still refuses to return that territory to the motherland, Syria, or to comply with the authoritative international resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 497 (1981). It is surprising and unacceptable that the briefings of the Secretariat should ignore Israel's continuing occupation of the Golan and its ongoing grave violations of international law, as if the former had never happened or the latter had come to an end! It is as if the Syrians in the occupied Golan, who live under the most heinous form of occupation, did not deserve so much as a modicum of the attention that the Secretariat gives to the situation in Syria in its briefings!

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2013/550

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 September 2013

Original: English

Letter dated 11 September 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 August 2013 from María Cristina Perceval, in her capacity as President of the Security Council (S/2013/474), concurring with my proposal to appoint Mandiaye Niang as a permanent judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, to replace Judge Andrésia Vaz, who resigned effective 31 May 2013.

I have received a corresponding letter from the President of the General Assembly (see annex). Accordingly, I am proceeding with the appointment of Mr. Niang as a permanent judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, effective immediately. In accordance with article 12 bis, paragraph 2 of the statute of the Tribunal, the appointment is effective for the remainder of the term of office that Judge Vaz would have served. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2080 (2012), Mr. Niang's appointment will therefore be effective until 31 December 2014, or until the completion of the cases to which he will be assigned, if sooner.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 6 August 2013 concerning the nomination of Mandiaye Niang to replace Judge Andrésia Vaz, who resigned as Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994.

In accordance with article 12 bis, paragraph 2 of the statute of the International Tribunal, I have reviewed the qualifications of Mr. Niang and I am pleased to inform you that I concur with the proposed appointment.

(*Signed*) Vuk **Jeremić**

United Nations A/67/992–S/2013/551

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Letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter dated 2 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations (A/67/950-S/2013/468).

As the international community is well aware, the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is an illegal secessionist entity that purportedly declared independence in 1983, following the unlawful invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in July 1974 and the subsequent occupation of 36.2 per cent of the island. This act of purported secession was condemned by the Security Council; in its resolution 541 (1983), the Council considered the said declaration as legally invalid and called upon all States not to recognize any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus, while, in its resolution 550 (1984), the Council expressed grave concern about the secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus and called upon all States not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity. As a result, no country other than Turkey has recognized the said illegal regime.

Deviating from the agreed framework for a solution to the Cyprus question, which provides for a unified island, the Turkish side has been attempting to establish a separate flight information region and airspace in the occupied part of the island. Its attempts take the form of harassment of commercial aircraft flying lawfully within the Nicosia flight information region by Turkish fighter jets, daily violations of the Nicosia flight information region and Cyprus' national airspace by Turkish aeroplanes, issuing illegal "notices to airmen" and similar illegal practices. The latest manifestation of these attempts has been the aforementioned letter, wherein a helicopter flying lawfully within the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, after having received permission by the latter's competent authority, was accused of having violated the purported airspace of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus".

My Government considers the escalation of these provocations to be extremely worrying. I wish to underline that Turkey's policy of persistently breaching

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international law and defying international rules and regulations gravely jeopardizes the safety of international civil aviation and the stability of the region, while also causing difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus and endangering the safety and security of airline passengers. Furthermore, Turkey's systematic attempts to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Cyprus by promoting an illegal secessionist entity and its unfounded claims to a "national airspace" and by supporting the operation of an illegal "control centre", which, it alleges, has control over a fictional flight information region in Cyprus, constitute violations of international law, as well as of the rules and regulations pertaining to international aviation issues.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and hereby appeal for their immediate cessation.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**